

C A S E

OF

CHARLES MOORE,

L A T E

MASTER COOPER

O F T H E

VICTUALLING-OFFICE.

Humbly offered to the

Serious Consideration of the C—mm—rs
for V—ll—g His Majesty's N—y.



L O N D O N :

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(Price Six-pence.)

C. A. S. E.

OF THE
CHARTERED MOUNTAIN
MAINTENANCE COOPER
OF THE
VICTORIAN GORFICE



2

T H E
C A S E
O F
CHARLES MOORE, &c.

BEING appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty, on the 20th of *July*, 1745, Master Cooper of the Victualling-Office, I immediately attended my Duty: And, on the 26th, the V—ll—g—B—d was pleased (without my Knowledge or Consent) to appoint me a Foreman.

* And I have Reason to believe, that this Man was made Choice of purposely to perplex and obstruct me in the Exercise of my Duty; as will evidently appear in the Sequel, by the most partial Proceedings that ever were practised by a B—d. i.e. to him

That this Foreman so appointed proved a very bad Man: That it was his constant Practice to contradict and disobey my Orders, by which Means his Majesty's Service was frequently obstructed and retarded: The wilful Waste, and
B malicious

* At the Time of Mr. *Moore's* Admission into his Office he was greatly opposed by some Gentlemen of the V—ll—g—B—d, which may be the Reason why they gave him such Disturbance ever afterwards; all which was the Effect of Prejudice.

malicious Confumption, of his Majesty's Stores, in my Absence, because he knew I, as Storekeeper, was accountable for those Stores: His instructing and encouraging his Servants to embezzle the King's Stores, by agreeing to pay them a certain Price for such Stores as were clandestinely conveyed out of the V—ll—g—O—e by them; as it appeared by the Confession of *John Cook*, (his Apprentice) whom I detected in the Fact, and found the Goods upon him; which Facts were likewise corroborated by the Testimony of *Robert Grove*, before the V—ll—g—B—d: All this is so well known, that the Truth thereof can be proved by Clouds of Witnesses.

And it is no less notorious, that I have many Times complained, not only in Writing, but likewise by verbal Applications, to the V—ll—g—B—d, of the base and villainous Practices of my Foreman; setting forth the Hardships I was under, in having a Man foisted upon me that I could put no Trust or Confidence in; yet, at the same Time, it was required of me to answer for his Misdeeds: Therefore I remonstrated to the B—d, that it would be better for me, and the Service too, to have no Foreman, than such a one as he proved to be; but I could have no Redress. For on the 9th of *November, 1745*, late at Night, I received a Letter from Mr. Secretary *Pelham*, which is as followeth:

Victualling-Office, Nov. 9. 1745, Half an Hour past 10 at Night.

S. I R,

“ Orders being arrived for supplying a sufficient Number of Transports, for three Thousand
“ land

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“ sand Horse, with Water, &c. I am com-
“ manded by the Board to direct you, without
“ Loss of Time, to cause a sufficient Number of
“ Butts to be got ready for that Service, and
“ that the People work Night and Day for that
“ Purpose.”

I am, S I R,

Your humble Servant,

HEN. PELHAM.

In Obedience to this Direction, I set the Coopers to work immediately; and the next Morning, having very few Butts in the Office, I went to the Town Coopers that were under Contract, and ordered them to send in their Butts with all possible Expedition. On the 11th of November I received the B—d's Orders to get 1000 Butts ready; and I had taken the necessary Measures that all that was possible might be done, that the Service at that critical Juncture might not be hindered: But the Actions of my Foreman, at a Time when the Fate of the Nation, in a great Measure, depended on the Dispatch given at the V—ll—g—O—e, favoured so much of Disaffection, that, had he been an Agent for the Pretender, he could not more effectually serve him; for he did all that was in his Power, at that Time, to retard the Service, by refusing (unknown to me) to receive any Butts from the Contractors, and ordering them to send no more into the Office, for he would not receive them; the Consequence of which was, that on the 12th there was not a Butt to hoop in the Office. And, to shew that he would leave no Mischief undone

that was in his Power to do, the very same Day I received the B—d's Orders to get 1000 Butts ready, he went round to every Cooper in the Yard, and ordered them to leave * off Hooping; and, that they might pay a Regard to what he said, threatened to lay a Fine upon every Man, of Half a Crown, that hooped a Butt after that Night; tho' my Orders were, they should hoop Butts all the Week.

Under these Difficulties I was obliged to use all the Diligence and Assiduity I was capable of, to prevent the fatal Consequences of such a wicked Disobedience.

This I complained of to the V—ll—g-B—d! all this I manifestly proved! but, to my great Surprise, I had the Mortification to hear myself called, by a C——r at the B—d, an impudent Fellow: And my Foreman was not once blamed for all the villainous Practices he had been guilty of, tho' the Consequence might have been no less than overturning the best Constitution in the World!

If your Honours would consult the Casuists, they will tell you, that whoever encourages, countenances, or connives at any Person in his Vices, becomes Partaker with him in his Crimes; and those Sins are very much aggravated, by how much those Persons have it in their Power to prevent the evil Consequences thereof: And I humbly conceive, had I discovered and proved such Enormities, at such a Time, before any B—d but a then V—ll—g-B—d, I should have had Redress, and the Delinquent would have been deservedly punished.

* More than 50 Coopers employed to hoop, who were capable to hoop 500 Butts *per* Day, all were taken off their Work by the Foreman.

I think, from what has been said, and my known Vigilance in so unhappy a Time * of Confusion, it will appear to every candid and judicious Man, that, during the late wicked and unnatural Rebellion, I acted consistently with the Duty of a faithful Servant to his Majesty, a good Subject, and an honest Man: And therefore I humbly recommend to the Consideration of this B—d some particular Services I have done the Crown; which, instead of procuring my Dismission (as will be allowed by all good Subjects to his Majesty and Lovers of their Country) ought to have established me Master Cooper of the V—ll—g—O—e, during Life.

Soon after I came into my Office, I discovered and prevented the pernicious Practice of seasoning Casks, for the Use of the Navy, with stinking and corrupt Water; with which the Seasoning-House Coppers were supplied out of the great Cistern in the Yard, in which were constantly soaking great Quantities of Hoops and Twigs, &c. for the Use of the Cooperidge, as appears by my Letter to the V—ll—g—B—d, of the 9th of *August*, 1745. But this most abominable careless Practice, to say no worse of it, had produced very bad Effects for several Years together; such as the just and frequent Complaints of musty Beer, bad Water, and damaged Provisions; and the most dreadful Consequences ensuing there-

* A Time of Confusion indeed; a Time when two potent Enemies were at our Doors: At a Time when an intestine Commotion had entered into the very Bowels of the Kingdom, and threatened Destruction to the Constitution, both in Church and State: At this Time of Confusion the Author was called an impudent Fellow! For what? For complaining of the evil Practices of his Foreman, and endeavouring, as much as in him lay, to prevent the ill Consequences of such a wicked Disobedience.

from,

from, Sickneſſes in the Fleet: For if Caſks are ſeaſoned with ſtinking hot Water, ſuch Water will penetrate and convey its poiſonous Quality into the Subſtance of the Timber; and thoſe Caſks will retain that ſtinking and corrupt Infection ſo received, and, conſequently, the Proviſions they contain muſt be damaged thereby.

Many were the Complaints, ſoon after I was admitted into my Office, from Maſters of Transports, and likewise from Men of War, concerning the unaccountable Badneſs of their Water; particularly a Meſſage from the Captain of the *Granado* Sloop of War, *Auguſt 31, 1745*, complaining their Water ſtunk ſo bad that it made the Meat ſtink they boiled in it; that the Ship's Crew had got the Flux; and that the Surgeon of the Ship imputed their Diſorder to the Badneſs of the Water.

Another Inſtance of the evil Quality that Caſks retain, when ſeaſoned with ſtinking and corrupt Water, appeared very evident: The *Sally* Transport, *Iſaac Lane*, Maſter, with ſeveral other Ships, being freighted, about the Month of *May, 1745*, from the V—ll—g—O—e, with Proviſions for the *West-Indies*, but, miſſing their Convoy, put into *Portſmouth*, where they lay many Months, in which Time a Diſcovery was made that the Proviſions were bad: Complaint thereof being made, three Punchions of Beef were ſent up, by Order, to the V—ll—g—O—e, as a Sample of the whole; and a Survey being had upon them, without being able to give any Account of the Cauſe, the Caſks being full of Pickle, which was tainted and corrupt, therefore the B—d came to this Concluſion, that there muſt have been a very great Remiſſneſs in the Branch: And, tho' they could not account for the Cauſe, they ſent for

for the Clerk of the Cutting-House, and acquainted him that the B—d was come to a Resolution to suspend him; but, upon his Remonstrance, and afterwards reminding the B—d of my Letter of the 9th of *August*, 1745, they altered their Purpose.

But, wisely considering that a Complaint of that Nature required some Atonement, some Sacrifice must be offered up, to avert that Justice and Judgment that seemed to threaten the Guilty; they therefore, very judiciously, dismissed the four Pickle-Yard Coopers, who could not possibly know any Thing of the Matter!

But I now positively assert the true Cause to be owing to the pernicious Quality of the Water with which those Flesh-Casks were seasoned, for the Casks were full of Pickle, and, consequently, being tight, could not receive any Infection from without; and, as the Pickle was tainted and corrupt, it must be occasioned by those infectious *Effluvia's* that those Casks retained, being seasoned with such putrified Water.

All these Causes of Complaints, with their most direful Consequences, consistently with my Duty, I did immediately remove. But, alas! so far was I from receiving the Commendation of any one of the C——rs for what I did, that one of them expressed himself at the B—d, to an Officer whom they at that Time sent for to consult with about a Rack to be made, purposely for the soaking of Hoops, Twigs, &c. for the Use of the Cooperidge, in this extraordinary Manner: It is a Thing of no Signification, but we have got a new Officer, and he has a Mind to shew himself.

But, with humble Submission to this B—d, it is Matter of very great Concern to me, as it must be to every good Subject to his Majesty, and
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Lover of his Country, that a C——r of the V—ll—g-B—d should think the Preserving the Lives and Healths of his Majesty's Sailors in general of no Signification.

And I humbly appeal, and submit it to the venerable Body of Physicians, whether Casks seasoned with stinking Water, wherein Hoops and Ozier Twigs are constantly soaked in great Quantities, will not retain the bad Qualities of such putrified Water? And whether the Provisions therein contained will not be infected thereby? And whether, the Sailors being obliged to live on such unwholesome Diet, a general Distemper in the Fleet might not have been the direful Consequence, and proved the Destruction of the Royal Navy, if I had not (as it was my indispensable Duty to do) prevented it, as soon as it occurred to my Knowledge?

At the Time I entered my Office there were, by Computation, about forty Tons of old Iron Hoops, and a daily Increase made to them, by Returns from the Out-Ports, Men of War, and Transports.

Upon examining those Hoops, I found the greater Part of them might be fitly adapted for the Service, and therefore applied to the V—ll—g-B—d that they would please to grant me proper Assistance to sort and adapt those Iron Hoops for Use; but was absolutely refused, with this Answer, that there was an Order of the B—d that no Iron Hoops should be cut up, but sold whole as they were; and thereupon I soon received the B—d's Order, directed to me, to acquaint the B—d what old and unserviceable Stores I had for Sale; my Answer was, I had none.

Soon

Soon after I applied to the V—ll—g—B—d again, setting forth the Necessity the Service was under to have those old Iron Hoops properly sorted, and adapted for Use, by which there would be a Saving to the Crown of several Hundreds Pounds *per Ann.* but I was not regarded.

Notwithstanding, knowing that what I requested would be a Benefit to the Crown, I did, by many Applications, prevail on the V—ll—g—B—d, to grant me a Number of Men, to be employed by Piece-Work, to sort and adapt the Iron Hoops for Service. These Men being employed by the Great, I was enjoined, by the B—d, to give a monthly Account of the Produce of their Work; and, by an Estimate laid before the V—ll—g—B—d, from *October* 1745 to the 30th of *June* 1746, there appeared a Ballance saved to the Crown (all Charges being deducted) of 1041 *l.* 15 *s.* This Affair was proved so evidently to the V—ll—g—B—d, that not one single Objection was ever made to it, and the Truth thereof they never questioned.

All this, according to my Duty as an Officer under the Crown, I performed; but, I being an Officer not fit for some particular Purposes, some M—b—rs of the V—ll—g—B—d thought fit to contrive my Dismission: But, lest I should plead my Services as above, a present M—b—r of this B—d (who may be deemed great from his Stature only) very cunningly claimed the Projection of preparing and adapting Iron Hoops for Service as his own; lest my frugal Management, of saving 1041 *l.* 15 *s.* in eight Months Time, in one Article only, should be so considered, by the Admiralty, as to establish me in my Employ.

But, with humble Submission to that worthy Gentleman, I think he did concern himself in an

Affair about Iron for the Use of the V—ll—g—
O—e, and I beg Leave to inform him of his
Mistake ; and, if it will be agreeable to him, I
will allow him to be the Projector of the Iron Bot-
toms to the Ovens, which, after Trial being
made, and the Government put to several Hun-
dred Pounds Charge, it was like * *John Prodgers's*
Work, when it was done it would not do. But
I shall never allow him the Credit of a Thing
that belongs alone to myself, and which I, with
so great Difficulty, obtained : And, what is more
extraordinary, that very Gentleman did particu-
larly oppose me in it ; therefore I beg Leave to
tell him, that, whatever Qualifications he may
have to constitute him a Gentleman, he still wants
those most necessary,—Honour, Generosity, and
Veracity.

Having a Warrant to furnish the *Swallow*
Sloop, dated the 3d of *February*, 1745-6, with 32
Half-Hogsheads for Water, they were delivered
from the Cooperidge on the 7th ; but the Cap-
tain of the said Sloop complaining to the V—l-
l—g-B—d, by a Letter of the 21st, that he had
not received them, I was ordered, by a C——r,
to send 32 Half-Hogsheads more, which were
delivered on the 22d : But the Hoytaker, into
whose Care both Parcels were delivered, and

* *John Prodgers*, a Carpenter, in *Hampshire* ; a Man of
a weak Brain, yet had so high an Opinion of his own Abi-
lities, that he would be frequently projecting ; but his
Schemes at all Times proved abortive, and his Work when
done would not do. This Gentleman has an extraordinary
Talent for Scheming : See his surprizing Invention for con-
veying Heat into the Lofts of the King's Storehouse, at the
Redhouse, *Deptford*, to keep the dry Provisions from Damps,
which did effectually ; and, to the great Astonishment of all
that beheld it, so powerful was the Operation, that not the
least Dampness, or any Moisture whatsoever, could ever be
discovered in those Provisions afterwards.

whose

whose peculiar Business it is to send the Casks on board the Ships they are intended for, denying that he ever received the first 32 Half-Hogsheads, I was therefore required to prove the Delivery ; which was clearly manifested to the V—ll—g—B—d by three Affidavits, viz. the two Persons that loaded those Casks, and likewise the Carman, who evidently proved those 32 Half-Hogsheads were delivered by him, at the *Hartshorn* Brewhouse, on the 7th of *February* ; and likewise by the Report of the Clerk of the *Hartshorn* Brewhouse to the V—ll—g—B—d, acknowledging the said Casks were received there at the Time above-mentioned. Notwithstanding so clear a Proof, a C——r told me at the B—d, in a very menacing Manner, that I had not sufficiently proved the Delivery of those Casks, tho' sworn to by three Affidavits, and confirmed by the Report of the Clerk of the Brewhouse, as above.

But, asking that Gentleman's Pardon, suppose he was accused before a Court of Justice of a capital Crime, and the Charge against him proved by the Oaths of three credible Witnesses, and supported and corroborated by the Testimony of a fourth Person, I'll venture to say, that, by the Laws of *England*, tho' the most lenitive in the World, he would be convicted on such Evidence ; and the Criminal, if he had any Generosity left, would acknowledge his Sentence to be just.

But here are 32 Half-Hogsheads actually embezzled, for I could never know how they were disposed of ; and I have been roughly treated for doing my Duty, and making the strictest Enquiry I could, to find out the Fraud. But, to use the Words of a certain C——r on the Occasion, Half-Hogsheads are pretty handy Casks,

and very fit for many Purposes; I concur with that Gentleman, that Half-Hogheads are pretty handy Casks, and fit for many Purposes; perhaps they may look well in a Gentleman's Store-cellar, which Places are sacred, and a Sanctuary for every Thing that is repositied therein: And, if an Officer should be profane, and pry into those Mysteries, I had almost said of In-q—ty, he may soon expect to hear the Thundering of Anathema's against him, abounding with malicious Invectives, Misconstructions, evil Intentions, and an unjust Suspension; followed by Misrepresentations, sly and dishonourable Insinuations, false and scandalous Imputations, and lastly, by a Sort of Illusion or Inchantment, even procure Dismission itself, not less terrible to a Man conscious of having done his Duty, than the Tortures of an Inquisition.

Here strict Justice requires me to make an Apology to those worthy and honourable Gentlemen who have been appointed in the Commission since I have been dismissed: And, therefore, as those Gentlemen could not know any Thing that I complain of, so I hope that nothing I have said, or shall say, will be understood or construed to cast the least Imputation of Blame on any of those worthy Gentlemen. All that I crave of them is, that they'll guard their Minds against Prepossession; and request that they'll so consider my Case, as they may thereby form a true Judgment between me and their Predecessors; whether, consistently with their Duty as Servants to the Crown, in their unaccountable Proceedings against me, they have executed Justice?

There are but two Members of this present B—d who were in the former C——n; one of whom,

whom, in Conjunction with a very surprizing Man, lately removed to the N—y, have, by their very extraordinary Conduct towards me, clearly demonstrated how just and equitable their Proceedings were; and they are Persons of such practical Knowledge, that my Words need no Explanation, for I know they would understand me, tho' my whole Discourse were Allegories.

The following Section will shew whether certain Persons, then in the C——n, have acted according to that great Trust reposed in them, and have carefully and frugally disposed of the Public Money, conformable to their Duty as Servants to the Crown?

On the 22d of *November*, 1745, I received a Warrant, from the Clerk of the Issues, to furnish the Stores at *Portsmouth* with 1000 Bundles of Iron Hoops, Part of which was sent, by the *Pennington* Sloop, the 4th of *December*, and Part by the *Gilleery*, the 14th of *February*, following. There were, in the Interval of Time between *February* and *April*, four other Vessels loaded from the V—ll—g—O—e to *Portsmouth*; but, the Hoytaker neglecting to send any Iron Hoops by those Vessels, the Service at *Portsmouth* being, by such Remissness and Neglect, in great Want, I received the B—d's Orders to send a Supply by Land Carriage; and I accordingly loaded five Waggons with Iron Hoops, containing upwards of 14 Tons Weight, for *Portsmouth*, which was attended with a very extraordinary Charge to the Crown; and which Expence might have been prevented, had the Hoytaker done his Duty, and sent them by Water, as he had no less than four Opportunities so to do; the Freight by Water being but 11s. and the Carriage by Land was 5*l.* per Ton. And, notwithstanding
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the Complaint coming to the B—d from *Portsmouth*, signifying the Distress the Service was in for Want of Iron Hoops, and the flagrant, self-evident Remissness, and wilful Neglect of the Hoytaker, I never heard that there was the least Blame imputed to him, and his Misconduct was vindicated by the C——r of the Branch. But, on the Contrary, upon a Master of a Vessel that was loading, at the V—ll—g—O—e Wharf for *Portsmouth*, applying to me to know if I had any Iron Hoops to send to that Place, I acquainted him that there were upwards of 400 Bundles to go, and promised to send them on board, and, accordingly, they were immediately sent; but this very extraordinary Man, the Hoytaker, instead of forwarding the Service, and preventing, as much as in him lay, for the future, an unnecessary Expence to the Crown, which, by his wilful Neglect, he had before occasioned, ordered the Wharf Gates to be shut, and would not suffer the Cart to draw in, saying, that no Iron Hoops should be put on board the Vessel; but as I was Master Cooper of the V—ll—g—O—e, and knowing that what I was doing was for the Good and Benefit of the Service, I insisted that those Iron Hoops should be put on board, and accordingly they were; but I soon had an Order to attend the B—d for it, where I was severely reprimanded for what I had done, and threatened with Dismission for doing my Duty. I beg Leave to remind those Gentlemen who were in the former C——n, that I offered to prove there had been Money given, by the Master of the above-mentioned Vessel, to the Hoytaker, for his former Freight; but that being thought not enough was the Reason, when this Vessel was to be loaded again, that he so strongly opposed me

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in the Execution of my Duty. Perhaps it may have slipt those Gentlemen's Memory; therefore I refer * them to my written Answer to the B—d's Reference upon that Occasion, in *April*, 1746. But, as I was told by a certain furious Gentleman at the B—d (who, at all Times, hath discovered more Rage than Reason, or a Capacity of forming a true Judgment of any Thing) that I had interfered in the Hoytaker's Branch, and that it was none of my Business to concern myself about those Iron Hoops; I therefore crave that Gentleman's Pardon, and do assert, that it did concern me in a very particular Manner, because all Warrants made out by the Clerk of the Issues, for all Stores whatsoever, are directed to the respective Storekeepers; and, if it relates to the Cooperidge, then the Warrant is directed to the Master Cooper, who is to furnish the Stores contained in that Warrant; and, tho' such Warrants are directed to the Storekeeper only, they pass through the Hoytaker's Office, who takes a Copy thereof in his Book, because he should be acquainted with every Thing that is ordered on such Warrants, for this Reason, that he may not plead Ignorance thereof: And it is his indispensable Duty to acquaint the Master Cooper, when there is any Vessel loading at the Wharf for such Ports as he knows there are Stores ordered for, and to slip no Opportunity of sending them by the first Vessel, without any mercenary Views

* See the Answer to the Reference, which terrified the Hoytaker so much, that he applied to an old Woman that keeps a Public House near the *Tower*; who addressed a very worthy and eminent Brewer (a known Friend of the Author's) in the Hoytaker's Behalf, lest his Conduct should be laid before the Admiralty; and, to oblige so worthy a Gentleman, the Author desisted from his Intention.

whatsoever :

whatsoever: And therefore, as the Hoytaker had been guilty of a Breach of Duty, by which the Service had suffered very much, it was incumbent on me, as the Storekeeper that was to furnish such Stores, to see and insist that those Iron Hoops were put on board the first Vessel, that the King's Business might be no longer retarded, or detrimented.

There may sometimes be Omissions of Duty, which, as they may be circumstanced, will admit of Excuse, but the Hoytaker is altogether inexcusable; for, had he regarded the Interest of the Service, he would have put Iron Hoops on board of every Vessel that loaded for *Portsmouth*; so long as there were any due on Warrant; because strait Iron Hoops are very good Ballast; therefore laid in the Bottom of the Vessel, and are no Hinderance to the Stowage of other Goods. Nor can the C——r of the Hoytaker's Branch say, he was ignorant that any Vessels were loading, at the V——ll——g O——e Wharf, for *Portsmouth*, between *February* and *April*, because there is no Vessel loaded with the King's Stores but he is acquainted, not only with the Contents of her Cargo, but also where she is consigned to; and therefore must know that his Officer had several Opportunities to send those Iron Hoops; and, as they were not sent, it was wilful Neglect in the Hoytaker, and the Service was very much hindered thereby; and therefore he could not gain any Credit by justifying his Officer's Faults; the Consequence of which being a manifest Loss to the Crown, as well as a great Obstruction to the Service.

And if some certain Persons in Power had acted consistently with their Duty as Servants to the Crown, and had been as careful to punish
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one Officer for his wilful Neglect of Duty, by which the Service was not only retarded, but the Government put to an unnecessary and extraordinary Expence, of near 70 £. to send an immediate Supply, as they were diligent to procure the Dismission of another Officer for doing his Duty (as it evidently appears, throughout the whole Course of his Employ, that he acted becoming the Duty of a good Subject to his Majesty, a faithful Servant, and an honest Man) they would by the former very justly have acquired Credit, Reputation, and Esteem, whereas by the latter they have covered themselves with Infamy, Shame, and Contempt.

That my whole Study hath been to promote the Good of his Majesty's Service, and that many Benefits have accrued to the Navy in general thereby, is too notorious to admit of a Question: That I have constantly preferred the general Good of the Service to all other Considerations whatsoever, hath been sufficiently demonstrated by the Effects; and much more I would have done, but, unhappily for me (and no Blessing to the Service) I was under some Persons that ruled with a despotic and arbitrary Controul, whose Will was absolute (tho' frequently attended with no great Benefit to the Crown) whose Dispositions will puzzle the deepest Philosophy to find any Good in them, and whose Judgment is imperceptible and abstruse, and as hard to be discovered as their Justice! Men who call Evil Good, and Good Evil! that put Darkness for Light, and Light for Darkness! Men who have condemned the Innocent, because he hath been faithful in the Discharge of the Duties of his Trust! and have endeavoured, by all the little

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Tricks and artful Evasions they were capable of, to screen and protect the Guilty!

Which leads me to consider, whether my Predecessor deserves the Title of a good Officer; for, upon my Admission into my Office, I thought it incumbent on me to pay my Duty to the C——r present, there being but one at that Time in the V—ll—g—O—e; I waited on him, and accosted him in the following Manner: “ Sir, the Lords
“ of the Admiralty have appointed me Master
“ Cooper of the V—ll—g—O—e, and I am
“ come to pay my humble Duty to your Honour.
“ I assure you, Sir, the Good of the Service
“ shall be the Study of my Life, and hope to
“ deserve your Honour’s Favour.” But I was answered by that C——r, with an Air of Surprise, “ Have they appointed you? Well! we
“ never had a better Officer than the last.”

How far this Officer may be deemed a good one will appear by the various Crimes he was charged with; and it might have been lucky for him if those Accusations were not proved by the Oaths of several credible Witnesses; he might then (with a more colourable Pretence) have passed for a good Officer, and an honest Man; but, on the Contrary, he was not charged with one single Fact but what was clearly proved; and, after a most equitable and candid Trial, before the Lords of the Admiralty, was, by their Lordships, convicted, and dismissed the Service with the greatest Indignation, as a very bad Officer; and a Stigma fixed upon him, never to be employed in the Service, in any Capacity whatsoever, any more.

That your Honours may the better form a Judgment of the good Services of this most excellent

cellent Man! I shall lay before you a Narrative of the Facts laid to his Charge, all which were proved by Affidavits.

Messrs. *Brett* and *Negus* deposed, that they went to the V—ll—g—O—e to contract with the C——rs for Flags; that the Master Cooper asked them what Price they intended to sell Flags for, and they said 14*d.* per Bolt; his Answer to them was, set the Price at 1*s.* 9*d.* per Bolt, and I will go to the C——rs, and tell them I have been over the Town and cannot get them under; and accordingly he did acquaint the B—d with that Fallacy, whereupon the B—d impowered the said Master Cooper to agree for those Flags as well as he could. And they further made Oath and said, that, while it was yet in the said Master Cooper's Power to ratify and confirm to them the said Contract or not, he came to the Deponents, and asked them whether they would resign the Contract to a certain Person in *Wapping*; but, upon their Refusal (this very good Officer!) took Occasion to tell them, that the said Person offered him 15 Guineas if he would procure him that Contract; and therefore now, said he, let me see how generous you'll be. And they further made Oath and said, that, in Consideration that the said Master Cooper did assure them he would, if possible, permit them to send into the Office 3000 Bolts, whereas their Agreement was only for 2000, they did promise him 10 Guineas; whereupon the said Master Cooper told them, they need not grudge to give 10 Guineas to get 40.

Another Charge against this extraordinary Officer! was relating to a Contract to furnish the V—ll—g—O—e with 10,000 *Hamburg* Pipe

Staves. This Agreement being made with the C——rs by a Friend of my Predecessor's, he, the said Master Cooper, went to the Timber Merchant's, and bought those Staves; but, instead of ordering them to be landed at the V—l—l—g—O—e Wharf, they were, by the said Master Cooper, directed to be landed at a Cooper's Yard in *Southwark*; where he came, bringing with him six Labourers from the V—l—l—g—O—e, whom he directed to sort those Staves; and the best and broadest of those Staves being by them picked out (by his Direction) and put into a Warehouse belonging to the above-mentioned Cooper, the others being reduced to the Standard, which is four Inches broad, clear of Sap, were sent to the V—l—l—g—O—e. By which cunning Practice of that good Officer, it is evident there was a manifest Loss to the Crown of more than one Third of the Value of all the Staves that were sent into the Office on the above-said Contract; for, according to the common Run of Pipe Staves, those that were picked out must be from six to seven, eight, or nine Inches broad, Sap inclusive.

The next Crime this surprizing Man was charged with, was relating to a Sale of old Iron, which was positively proved by two Affidavits, and corroborated by a Third: That, by the Order and Direction of the abovesaid Master Cooper of the V—l—l—g—O—e, there were as many Bundles of new and serviceable Iron Hoops cut to Pieces, and sold for old Iron, as amounted to 300 *l.* Damage to the Crown.

All the several Affidavits, proving the above recited Facts, were transmitted to the V—l—l—g—B—d! And the several Charges against the said Master

Master Cooper were subsisting above twelve Months before the C——rs! Yet, so blind were they to his Faults, that they would not judge him criminal. And although it was clearly proved, with respect to his public Character as an Officer under the Crown, that his Conduct had been exceeding bad, and contrary to the Interest of the Service, yet, so prevailing was the Consideration of his being an Officer (whom they had experienced) to be very fit for some private and particular Purposes! probably it is, those worthy Gentlemen (in their great Wisdom) concluded it might not consist with their Interest to suspend him, and therefore endeavoured to screen and protect him as well as they could.

But this Man's Crimes were of too black a Nature to be slightly passed over by a Right Honourable Board of Admiralty! And therefore, after a most judicious and candid Hearing before their Lordships, this good Officer! this most excellent Master Cooper of his Majesty's V—l—l—g—O—e! was justly convicted of the Facts laid to his Charge, and therefore was accordingly dismissed as unworthy any Employ in the Service.

But with what Surprise and Astonishment must the Mind of every judicious Man be filled, when, after so clear a Conviction before such truly noble and impartial Judges, the sagacious and penetrating Gentleman above-mentioned should presume even to arraign the Judgment of **their** Lordships, by justifying the Convict! And, notwithstanding a long Chain of Crimes of the blackest Nature, should pronounce him a good Officer! That worthy Gentleman would do well to explain himself to the Public, wherein his good
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Offices confisted, and wherein any Benefit accrued to the Crown thereby; and then, it is not to be doubted, both he and his Officer will meet with a just and fuitable Reward according to their Merit.

Thus have I given a brief Account of the several Facts that were alledged, and proved, against this very extraordinary Officer; by which it clearly appears that his Dispositions and Morals were bad, and indeed, according to the Evidence, his whole Practice was bad, and consequently he must be a very bad Man. Yet, notwithstanding those clear and evident Proofs, several Persons in Power at that Time endeavoured, a whole Year together, to wash off that dark Colour with which he was tinged, and hide his Deformity, by glossing him over with Colours that might make him appear quite different to what he really was; but it was Labour in vain, tho' they laboured hard at it, for no Artifice they could use would make the *Ethiopian* white.

To plead the Cause of the injured and oppressed Man, to defend and justify accused Innocence, are Acts so truly laudable in themselves, and so worthy the Imitation of all Mankind, that the more any Persons are dignified with Honour and Power, the more indispensable is their Duty to patronize Virtue. And, as such Dispositions proceed from a Nobleness and Generosity of Soul innate in themselves, so have those truly worthy Persons such Returns of inward Satisfaction and Consolation, upon such Occasions, as none but the just and generous Man knows, or can know.

It is therefore necessary, that those Gentlemen, that signalized themselves in the Defence of so bad a Man, should (with respect to their own
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Reputation) signify some particular Acts of his (consistently with Justice and the Duties of his Office) that induced them so strenuously to espouse his Cause; but this they never have once attempted (I suppose from a Consciousness of the Impossibility of it) yet have they put the greatest Encomiums upon him that can be due only to the best of Officers.

I acknowledge that my Conduct, through the whole Course of my Employ, hath been directly reverse to that of my Predecessor's; and therefore it is not to be wondered at, that those very same Gentlemen should so assiduously procure my Dismission, as a bad Officer; and, that they might make sure Work of it, persecuted me so secretly, that they condemned me without so much as exhibiting a Charge against me; ~~and~~ and unheard, and unexamined, I was, by Order of the V—ll—g B—d, called up, *November 28, 1746*, only to hear my Sentence of Suspension read!

Surely such injurious Treatment! such cruel Oppression! such merciless Persecution! of an Officer who hath been known faithfully to discharge the Duties of his Trust, and whose whole Study hath been the Good of the Service, will plead an Excuse for me, tho' I should arraign the Justice of that B—d, which will even make a *Spanish* Inquisitor blush at their Proceedings!

I therefore appeal to those Gentlemen that composed the former B—d, even to their own Consciences; and, as an Appellant to that equitable Tribunal, hope I may be permitted to ask the following Questions, *viz.*

First, Whether it could ever be proved, by any Informations they received against me, or
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any Observations that have occurred to their own Knowledge, that I have ever, either by any Remissness, Carelessness, or wilful Neglect of Duty, done one single Act that might retard, or detriment, his Majesty's Service?

Secondly, Whether they (according to their Knowledge) were not conscious to themselves that I exerted my Abilities for the Good of the Service not only by my frugal Management, and giving the most diligent and necessary Dispatch to the Business of the Service, (by which I saved the Government many hundred Pounds a Year) but likewise that I have, by regulating the Practices of my Predecessor, been conducive to the Preservation of the Lives and Healths of the Sailors employed in the Royal Navy in general?

Thirdly, Whether my refusing to be concerned in the Embezzlement of his Majesty's Stores, and assiduously endeavouring to discover Frauds, that were committed in my Branch, and which peculiarly belonged to me to enquire into, and therefore was my indispensable Duty to take Notice of, were not deemed, by some of my Superiors, principal Faults?

Fourthly, I ask some of those worthy Gentlemen, whether they did not conspire against me, and dictate and direct the Writing of two anonymous Letters to the Board, that they might have something to accuse me of; tho' their Sycophants, so employ'd, dare not appear to prove what they had (by their Encouragement) Impudence enough to assert in those Letters?

Fifthly, Whether those anonymous Letters were not read at the V—ll—g—B—d as Evidences against me, tho' no Person ever attempted to prove any Thing therein alledged?

Sixthly,

Sixthly, Whether I ever had any Charge exhibited by the V—ll—g-B—d against me, or any Reference relating to any Thing I was accused of, that I might make a Defence, tho' I had the B—d's Promise I should have in a proper Time?

Seventhly, Whether the V—ll—g-B—d have not contrived and procured my Dismission, without being once heard or examined relating to any one Thing I was accused of?

Eighthly, Whether the Good of the Service was the Motive that induced some M——s of the B—d to displace me? Or, for some private Reasons, they thought fit to remove an Officer out of their Way, that had Resolution enough to do nothing but what was consistent with the Duty of his Office?

Ninthly, Whether my Care and Diligence for the Good of his Majesty's Service was not conspicuous to the V—ll—g-B—d, by the great Numbers of Casks I return'd to the Contractors, as unfit for Service; as it appeared to the Board, by an Account from the Clerk of the Cheque, that, in about eleven Months Time, while the Contracts with the Town Coopers were subsisting, no less than fifteen hundred and ninety one Casks were return'd: And it is no less notorious, that so great a Number never had been return'd, in seven Years before, by any of my Predecessors?

Tenthly, I ask those judicious Gentlemen, whether upwards of one hundred and fifty Tight Punchions, seven hundred Hogsheads, and all the Barrels and Half-Hogsheads that were found in the Office upon the Survey (when they so artfully contrived my Suspension) were not in the

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Office before my Admission as an Officer? (as hath been made appear by Affidavits.) And whether the Reception of those Casks was not imputed to me and made the Article of my Suspension, although they were received by my Predecessor long before I was employ'd in his Majesty's Service?

Eleventhly and lastly, Whether the whole Proceeding of the V—ll—g—B—d against me (which was carried on with such Secrecy that I never had any Opportunity to make a Defence) was not the Effect of Prepossession and Prejudice, without the least Regard had to the Good of his Majesty's Service?

But, alas! where will my Injuries drive me to seek Redress? Or, why should I appeal to the Consciences of unjust Men! who have been wickedly disposed to study and contrive my Ruin? Will such Men set up a Court of Judicature in their own Breasts? Will they suffer their Conscience to sit as President there? Will they acknowledge the Convictions thereof? Or can I expect they will be candid enough to confess they have wrong'd me, and endeavour to make Restitution for the Damage?—No!—Common Experience and the Knowledge I have of Mankind tell me that such an Expectation is vain.

I therefore (as my Credit and Reputation is as dear to me as my Life) demand a Trial in a Court of Justice, by a Jury of my Equals; for, if I have deserved Dismission, I have then merited a much greater Punishment. And, as an *Englisbman*, and an Officer under the Crown, I do, in my Right, insist upon having a fair and equitable Trial, for the better Information
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and Satisfaction of his Majesty, to whom I have been a good Subject and a faithful Servant; that thereby the Lords of the Admiralty may be convinced how grossly I have been misrepresented to them; and, lastly, for the Satisfaction of all the good People of *England*, particularly the Sailors employ'd in the Royal Navy, who have been much injured by my Dismission.

Shall the Master Cooper of his Majesty's V—ll—g—O—e fall a Victim to the Spleen and Malice of his Enemies, for no other Reason but because he hath been an honest Man, and hath faithfully discharged the Duties of his Trust, and hath (notwithstanding contrary Injunctions) had Resolution enough to be virtuous? Shall an Officer of such Moment, on whose Conduct the Preservation and Well-being of his Majesty's Navy in a great Measure depends, be suspended and dismissed without so much as a Charge exhibited against him, or without being ever once heard or examined, relating to any Thing he might be accused of? This is such an oppressive Cruelty! such an unparallel'd Barbarity! that all the Records of his Majesty's V—ll—g—O—e cannot furnish a like Precedent; and, were it possible to find a Man presumptuous enough to plead an Excuse for a Proceeding of that Kind, all that could be said would be so far from justifying, or making it less criminal, that it must aggravate the Guilt.

I cannot conclude without doing Justice to a certain worthy Gentleman in the C——n, who was at that Time over the Cooperidge; the Manner in which he was pleased to express himself to me, the very Day I was dismissed, is a clear Indication that his Concurrence therein was with

the greatest Reluctance, viz. " Mr. Moore, I believe you to be a good Man, a Man of Sense, and one that knows your Business well ; and I am sorry to part with you." I therefore call upon Mr. *W—ll—e* and challenge him, upon his Honour, whether he did not express himself to me in those Terms? And surely those Gentlemen could not regard the Interest of his Majesty's Service, when they so assiduously procured the Dismission of an Officer whose Probity they were convinced of, and whose Abilities to serve the Government they are obliged to acknowledge?

Alas! my Capacity and Disposition to be serviceable and beneficial to the Crown were too unfashionable to be considered by those Gentlemen ;—it was sufficient that I stood in their Way, and therefore must be removed,—for no other Reason, but that Room might be made for a more docible Creature, that would be exactly suitable and conformable to their own Dispositions.

And a very just Conclusion may be drawn from many Occurrences,—that my Successor, as well as my Predecessor, meets with the same Approbation; and hath (from the great Man before-mentioned) merited the Title of a good Officer.

Having finished my Case, I hope the Gentlemen to whom it is addressed will not deem it any Exaggeration, if I call it a hard Case, as it contains nothing but certain and undeniable Facts. And I challenge and defy all the bad Men, of what Rank or Degree soever, that were employed during the Time I was in Office, or are yet retained in the Service of his Majesty's *V—ll—g*, to contradict and refute one Syllable of what I have wrote.

And I am ready at any Time (when called upon by proper Authority) to vindicate my Reputation

Reputation, against any Thing the Malice of my Enemies can suggest ; and justify my Conduct (even before the most August Assembly) throughout the whole Course of my Employ in his Majesty's Service.

Charles Moore.

P. S. I have much more to say ; but, as it does not relate to this particular Case, I intend it for the Subject of another Discourse.



(20)
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